

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of sectors 1a, which constitute a flash memory 1, are each divided into a plurality of blocks 1b. Each of the plurality of blocks 1b has a data recording area 1c, and a block state management area 1d for recording data indicating whether data is unrecorded, is recording, or has been recorded in the data recording area 1c. The "recorded" or "recording" makes it possible to easily decide as to whether the record data is reliable, thereby improving the accuracy of the data recording.

Dividing the sector to the plurality of blocks 1b can increase the number of times of data rewritings per sector 1a by a factor of N as compared with a conventional system, and reduce the number of times of erasures to $1/N$, thereby being able to extend the life of the flash memory 1.